

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3628

INFO USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL TURIN

LIMITED OFFICAL USE MOSCOW 11910

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, UR

SUBJECT: PLANS FOR EXPANSION OF TOGLIATTI AUTOMOBILE PLANT (VAZ)

REF: MOSCOW 16054, OCTOBER 23, 1974.

USDOC FOR BEWT/TDAD AND USSR

1. CONFIRMATION OF REPORT REFTEL OF PLANS TO INTRODUCE PRODUCTION OF FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLE AT TOGLIATTI VAZ PLANT (REFTEL) WAS PROVIDED BY SPECIAL DISPLAY OF SOVIET CARS AND TRUCKS AT ECONOMIC ACHIEVEMENTS EXHIBITION (VDNKH) WHICH INCLUDED PROTOTYPE OF VEHICLE, WHICH GOES UNDER NAME OF "NIVA" (FIELD). ACCORDING TO DESCRIPTIVE MATERIAL, "NIVA" TO GO INTO SERIAL PRODUCTION DURING 1976 (NO QUANTITIES INDICATED). IN APPEARANCE, "NIVA" RESEMBLES RENAULT 5, AND DOES NOT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN BASED ON ANY KNOWN FIAT DESIGN. VEHICLE IS DISTINGUISHED, INTER ALIA, BY VERY HIGH GROUND CLEARANCE, WHICH INDICATES THAT IT WAS DEVELOPED FOR USE IN AREAS WHERE ROADS EITHER POOR OR NON-EXISTENT. SOURCE OF ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT FOR PRODUCTION OF "NIVA" NOT YET CLEAR. DURING THEIR LAST VISIT TO COMMERCIAL OFFICE (EARLY AUGUST)N CROSS COMPANY REPS ADVISED THAT THEY STILL HAD NOT RECEIVED FORMAL REQUESTS FOR BIDS FOR EQUIPMENT.

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2. VDNKH DISPLAY ALSO PROVIDED ENCOURAGING SIGNAL FOR U.S.

PRODUCERS OF HEAVY TRUCKS FOR MINING OPERATIONS. PROTOTYPE OF
75-TON CAPACITY BELAZ TRUCK, WHICH SOVIETS APPARENTLY SEE AS
DOMESTIC ALTERNATIVE FOR UNIT RIGA, WABCO AND TEREX TRUCKS OF 120
TONS AND UP, WAS ON DISPLAY. HOWEVER, DESCRIPTIVE MATERIAL ON THIS
VEHICLE LEFT BLANK SECTION WHERE DATE FOR BEGINNING SERIAL
PRODUCTION SHOULD HAVE BEEN INDICATED.
STOESSEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY, AUTOMOBILES
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 21 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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